The purpose in publishing *SELECTIVE SEARCH* (previously known as the *NEWS SHEET*) has always been to provide a survey of the CHESS COMPUTER scene, with a special emphasis on reliable assessments of the PLAYING STRENGTHS of the many machines now available. My work at COUNTRYWIDE COMPUTERS is of special help in this as they provide financial backing and allow me some time off in office hours during which to prepare part of the material. We handle there a very wide range of Computers, and I enjoy freedom to maintain personal opinions and preferences which I seek to share with readers. The final selection of games and articles for each issue is done independently and solely by myself.

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**ARTICLES, REVIEWS, GAMES** sent in by Readers, Distributors, Programmers etc. are **always welcome** and will receive fair consideration for publication.

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- **24 Latest RATING LISTS** for DEDICATED and PC programs.

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Welcome to another packed issue. Sadly the expected Malcolm Pein/Murray Chandler article hasn't made it after all... but you've got Mike Healey and Graham White instead, plenty of me... and MANY good games including a selection of the BEST from the World Micro in Vancouver. And Malcolm has promised something for SS/37 (probably a CHESSBASE review). My mini-sermon is missing as well. Don't bother cheering, it will definitely be there in the December (CHRISTmas) edition of SS... by which time you will also be able to compare my CHESS MACHINE review with John Nunn's in the November issue of BCM!
NEWS...and...RESULTS

YORK UNIVERSITY TOURNAMENT, 1991

Good friend ALASTAIR CARGILL sent me the result and games a few weeks ago, but it got 'squeezed' out of SS35, for which I apologise. The York team run a Tournament virtually every year, using their own machines and playing a double-Round series at 1 min per move.

First of all, here is the FINAL TABLE from the Event:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PR16</th>
<th>Mac3</th>
<th>Acad</th>
<th>PsAt</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>SCon</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>T/Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mep# PORPOROSE 68000</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity MACH 3</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mep#hito ACADEMY</td>
<td>0½</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSION Atari ST</td>
<td>0½</td>
<td>0½</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>'01</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity CLUB B</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0½</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag SUPER CONSTELLATION</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>0½</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>2½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The order at the top is based on Alastair's 'sum of opponents' scores' calcs. which put the Mep#hito into 1st. place on tie-break. The PORTOROSE had been expected to win in a more clear-cut manner, but who could have anticipated it would lose both of its games against the 'old' SUPER CONNY?!! Both the MACH 3 and the ACADEMY achieved higher scores than expected, but the CLUB disappointed a little as, based on its SS RATING, it should have scored 3½ or 4.

Alastair has promised (nudge, nudge) to send some analysis for the best games for a future issue of SS but, meantime, here are the 'shorties'...

PORTOROSE 68000 - ACADEMY

1. c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 e6 6.a3 Nge7 7.b4 c6 8.a4 Nb4 9.Ba3

Bc3 10.d3 [Portorose reads -078, Academy +091 at this early stage]...


CLUB - ACADEMY


31.Kf2 Be4 32.Rc4 Rc4 33.Rd2 Rc2 34.Rc2 Bc2 35.Kg3 Bb3 36.Kh4 Bb6 37.Kg5 Kg7 38.b5 Bd7 39.a4 h6 40.Kh4 Bb5!!! 41.ab5 a5 42.ba6 ba6 43.a4 fe4 44.f5 a5. 0-1.

The next one isn’t a ’shortie’, but I know you’d love to see one of the Super Constellation’s ’shock’ wins over mighty Portorose!

SUPER CONSTELLATION – PORTOROSE 68000


MACH 3 - ACADEMY


From the full list of games sent to me there are also quick wins for PORTOROSE against CLUB (31 moves), and MACH 3 against SUPER CONSTELLATION (29), so I’ll aim to include those next time together with whatever Alastair sends.

The full AEGON 1991 Result

The leading scores from this COMPUTER v. HUMAN Event (plus some Grading) were given in S6/35. Here, now, is the full list of COMPUTER performances, in points scored order.

As far as I can tell you, CHESS MACHINE K refers to 'THE KING' program by Konig (4th. in World Micro Software), and CHESS MACHINE S refers to the Ed Schroeder program (1st. in World Micro under the name "GIDEON"). You get both when you buy The Chess Machine. The Mephisto which obtained the massive 2534 grading was a special 50MHz unit, and not one of the commercial 36 MHz versions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Opps Grade</th>
<th>Tourn Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M CHESS 486/25</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>2281</td>
<td>2414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto LYON 68030/50</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>2468 (!)</td>
<td>2534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REX CHESS 486/25</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>2323</td>
<td>2389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto LYON 68020</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2312</td>
<td>2312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag SUPER EXPERT B/6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2188</td>
<td>2188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity 68020/v7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2130</td>
<td>2130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto LYON 68030</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>2370</td>
<td>2303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HITECH (main frame!)</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>2357</td>
<td>2290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHESS MACHINE X</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>2297</td>
<td>2230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUEST</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>2264</td>
<td>2198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto POLGAR/18</td>
<td>2½</td>
<td>2226</td>
<td>2159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHESS MACHINE S</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2425 (!)</td>
<td>2292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity 68040/v10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2392</td>
<td>2259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZARKOV</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2292</td>
<td>2159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHESS PLAYER X</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>2372</td>
<td>2172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity 68030/v9</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>2221</td>
<td>2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRITZ</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>2191</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag SUPER EXPERT C/9</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>2168</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag SUPER FORTE C/6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2077</td>
<td>1810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECHEC</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2120</td>
<td>1787</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The usual crop of surprises included a brilliant SUPER EXPERT B result - yet just look where the two "C" versions ended up!? Also Fidelity's 68020 came ahead of its bigger brother 68030 and 68040 (though the 68040 faced tougher opposition and did get a better grade). ECHEC suffered another disaster! You will remember this was the only program which ran the LYON at all close in the 1990 World Software Champs., but then failed quite miserably in 1991 and came 10th. The result of HITECH indicates that, as we humans get more and more used to playing computer programs, sheer speed is becoming even less effective. The BEST dedicated programs do the best job!

---

**NOVAG at San Jose Open**

The strange and disappointing Novag result above is quite in contrast to its fine performance at San Jose though it may, admittedly, have been playing against less computer-aware opposition. A TURBO-BOOSTED SUPER FORTE B scored a decent 4½/9 (grading not known), but this time the 'B' program was overshadowed by the "C" upgrade as a SUPER EXPERT C/9 (thus the same 9MHz system that played at Aegon) got 5½/9 and achieved a fine 2235 grade.

Points gained by the "C/9" program included a draw with Rano (2405), and a win over Carruez (2165). Two very quick wins went as follows:—
Novag SUPER EXPERT C/9 - MORENO (1945)


Novag SUPER EXPERT C/9 - A.ALONSO (2025)


Computers in SWEDISH Champs

In my NEWS report in SS/35 I referred to the new 68000 programs (DIABLO and SCORPIO) which will shortly be appearing from Novag.

I reported on some early results of an EXPERIMENTAL pre-launch version, and estimated an 80-90 Elo improvement for the new program over the SUPER FORTE and EXPERT C/6 (though I note Eureka, the main distributor, is talking of 200 Elo, and they may well have more or different information to mine). However I do learn that the early score from Sweden of 3-5 for DIABLO v LYON 68000 ended up at 5½-14½, which will be at least a bit disappointing.

On the other hand Larry Kaufman reports to Gerald Murphy that his Blitz and Action Chess tests are holding solidly at around a 90 Elo improvement. To further complicate the calculations, Gerald also sent me the FINAL SCORES of all the Computers which were entered in various sections of the SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP event. I had reported that DIABLO had 5½/0 for 2054 Swedish (=2154/194 BCF) with 1 round to go. Unfortunately it lost its last game to a 1784 player, so the final scores and grades for the four Computers was:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto LYON 68020/12</td>
<td>8½/12</td>
<td>2209 = British 2309/214 BCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag DIABLO 68000</td>
<td>5½/9</td>
<td>1972 = 2072/184 BCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conchess PLYMATE VICTORIA</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>1840 = 1940/168 BCF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto WMS/5</td>
<td>2½/6</td>
<td>1753 = 1853/157 BCF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The different number of games played by each machine is caused by the fact that the Swedish Championships operate on a different system to ours. They separate the players, in grading order I believe, into groups to form a TOP Section, then Sections 1, 2, 3 etc. A (privately owned) Computer is often entered in each group - though never before into the Championship Section until the LYON this year - and the Sections are ALL-PLAY-ALL (you 'duck' the Computer, you lose the point!... so everyone plays against them, like it or not!).
As Goran Grottling reports, the LYON 68020 performance is the highest ever achieved in the Swedish Championships (he shows the figure as 2217, a little above our calculation). However Mephisto's elation with the LYON result will no doubt be tempered by disappointment over the MMS effort. This is MMS's second poor showing against humans and is, I believe, largely caused by its smallish opening book which makes it too easy for good players to prepare against. Remember that we had this trouble using the much bigger POLGAR opening book in the 1990 British and, as reported elsewhere, even had problems this year with one winning line repeated no less than four times against a LYON!

The annual Swedish revision of their Rating List level was carried out after the Championship results were in, and their overall Ratings for Computers has risen by just 1 point. As Goran says, this clearly indicates that they have found virtually the exactly correct level for the Swedish listings. During the same 12 month period, and including the British Championship result for the LYON 68000, the overall Computer Ratings in "SELECTIVE SEARCH" have dropped by only 3 points, which indicates that we, too, are continuing to produce pretty accurate British-equivalent figures.

The PLYMATE VICTORIA program used to appear in my Rating List, but was removed when it failed to make a commercial appearance over here (though all of its known results continue within my rating system). However it has become available in the home area of its Swedish programmer (Ulf Rathsman) and is now appearing on their Rating Lists (it shows at 44 Elo above the PLYMATE5.5 on their latest figures after 246 test games).

Back to the DIABLO, and what should we say of it? The result should be put into clearer perspective by showing the current figures for both the B/6 and C/6 programs alongside...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swedish Rating</th>
<th>Swedish v humans</th>
<th>SS Rating</th>
<th>SS v humans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUPER FORTE-EXPERT B/6</td>
<td>1899</td>
<td>1692 ( 9 games)</td>
<td>2029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUPER FORTE-EXPERT C/6</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>1996 (15 games)</td>
<td>2056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIABLO-SCORPIO</td>
<td>1972 ( 9 games)</td>
<td>(2072 9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not at all clear-cut is it? - especially as the v human results are such small samples. We're still in August as I write this part of SS, but I think I'll stay with my 80-90 Elo improvement forecast for now, and we'll see what happens. If the program should come out before SS/36 goes to press, there'll be an update by an "official" appearance in the Rating List. In the meantime Paul Cohen at Eureka kindly did the Pergamon CHESS "Beat the Masters" for me with the experimental version he has, and those results should appear in late September (the October issue), which would be worth looking out for.
Computer v Computer Results

QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT, 1991. 10 games each match.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mach3</th>
<th>Polgr</th>
<th>MSFC</th>
<th>D2100</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity MACH 3</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8½</td>
<td>20½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto POLGAR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>4½</td>
<td>9½</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag SUPER FORTE C</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5½</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>6½</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity DESIGNER 2100</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>1½</td>
<td>3½</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>6½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIVE-WAY TOURNAMENT, Germany. 30 games each match!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>02265</th>
<th>Polgr</th>
<th>MMIV</th>
<th>Mach2</th>
<th>TKing</th>
<th>SConn</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity DESIGNER 2265</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>16½</td>
<td>21½</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>24½</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>100½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto POLGAR</td>
<td>13½</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17½</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mephisto MMIV(4)</td>
<td>8½</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>19½</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24½</td>
<td>83½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidelity MACH 2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12½</td>
<td>10½</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>20½</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>76½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scisys TURBO KING (1?)</td>
<td>5½</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9½</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novag SUPER CONSTELLATION</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5½</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>xx</td>
<td>31½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pretty much according to form, apart from MM4 coming ahead of MACH 2. The result is a disappointment for TURBO KING's supporters, and it's a pity there wasn't stronger Novag program involved. All of the above six machines were then played against a Mephisto LYON 68020/12, but as the number of games in each match varies, the LYON cannot be included in the final table. Results were:-

Mephisto LYON 68020 v DESIGNER 2265 16½-3½
POLGAR 12-8 (very good Polgar result)
MMIV(4) 6½-1½
MACH 2 9-1
TURBO KING 9-1
SUPER CONSTELLATION 18-2

Frank Holt's LATEST

Frank has his Novag SUPER FORTE "C" chip installed now, and writes to say the results of the "C" against his LYON 68020 show a definite improvement over the achievements of the "B". The totals which follow include games at a range of playing speeds, but exclude the Blitz results which I never include for rating purposes (minimum requirement is 1 minute per move).

SUPER FORTE B - LYON solid 3-13
LYON active 3-13 (19%)
LYON risky ½-15½
SUPER FORTE C - LYON active 7½-16½ (31%)

If Frank continues with his usual research and tries the FORTE C against LYON c solid and risky as well, then results will appear in SS.
ENDGAME CORNER by Graham White

This instalment covers a favourite topic of mine - the world of endgame studies. All mating problems are checked by computers these days and, in my experience, they are often useful for checking studies - an advantage not enjoyed by the following composers, as the following positions show.

Study 1

Kb6 7.Bg2 - and draws!

But Prokes and Troitsky - both great composers - each missed improvements! In the first Lyon finds a mate announcement at the end; and in the second a WIN for Black! Can you (or your computer!?)

Study 3

A Problem by Prokes, with White to play and win. Here is his solution:-

1.e4! Qxe4 2.Qb3+ Qb4 3.g4+ Kb6
4.Qxb4+ 1-0

Study 2

This is another by Troitsky: this time it is White to play and win, and here is his solution.

1.Qc8+ Kd6 2.Ne4+ Qxe4 3.Qd8+ Kc5
4.Qb6+ Kc4 5.Qb4+ Kd5 [5...Kd3

But can you find a second winning line, starting at move 2, which the Lyon discovered?

Study 4

Here, White is to play and get the draw. This is a fantastic study by Lazard - can you or your computer solve it?

Again we start with the composer's solution (this time it's Troitsky). White to play and draw.

1.Bd3+! Kb7 2.Bxc2 b1Q 3.Bxh1
Rb2+ 4.Kg3 h4+ 5.Kxh4 Rxb2 6.Be4+
Here is a quite astonishing problem by Cheron. No... please don't adjust your sets, I do have my board the right way round! Not only is the visual position a little out of the ordinary (!) - so is the solution which requires White to play and mate in 8.

Solutions will be found on the inside back cover.

---

**EASTBOURNE REPORT (28/7-10/8/1991) by Mike Healey**

This was the second year in succession that the British Championships had been staged in Eastbourne. After last year's horrific news, with Eastbourne's MP being murdered nearby on the very first day, and then one chessplayer running amok in a Chinese restaurant on the middle Saturday (luridly reported in the National tabloids, of course), we hoped for dramatic happenings of an entirely different kind.

As before, Countrywide had a double involvement - three Mephisto computers playing in the Major Open, and an extensive Display, exhibiting and selling Mephisto and Fidelity computers, plus a few Novag and Saitek.

**The Major Open**

Whereas the field for the British Championships itself was a little weaker than last year, that for the Major Open was stronger, partly due to six or seven highly rated Israeli players, most of whom we had to play against.

We are generally allowed to enter whichever models we choose, but the BCF had been concerned that our top computers might sweep all before them, so we decided to enter the LYON 16 - the "weakest" of the four Lyon versions - though in the eyes of most of its opponents a formidable and powerful beastie. So three Lyon 16's (housed in Modular boards) played 11 games each.

The final tally was 14 wins, 8 draws and 11 losses. The breakdown of this was very interesting. Against opponents graded over 200 BCF, and averaging 210 BCF, (or Elo equivalent) we had 4 wins, 4 draws and 5 defeats. Against players 200 or below, it was 10 wins, 4 draws and 6 defeats. The most telling statistic (repeating our experience of last year) was that Lyon A, with our experienced operator Eddy, achieved 7/11, whereas the identical Lyon B and Lyon C, operated by inexperienced youngsters,
who often lost much time transferring moves or just wandering off (!), fared less well. Indeed one of our defeats was a loss on time solely for this reason, and three other games almost went the same way!! The frustrating thing about the game actually lost on time was that it was reaching a really exciting climax. Everyone around was clear as to which side was winning - the only difference was that they were evenly divided! Our opponent had thought his game was lost, but we never had the opportunity to prove it!

One particular development reared its head again this year, and although it causes us a high level of apoplexy, it does have its funnier moments. Paul Griffiths, a very strong junior, beat the Lyon fairly and squarely with a novel opening, but the game was then circulated amongst a host of other potential opponents, and one of these gentlemen managed to reproduce the entire game, giving us another loss. Then a third opponent repeated the play, sitting there grinning hugely, in total control. Until, that is, the computer refused to oblige and played an entirely different move. Our opponent (to quote from P.G.Woodhouse) did not exactly look disgruntled, but he was far from gruntled. "Gobsmacked" seems to be the "in" word for such occasions. It did prove that computers seem to have a mind of their own, even if not all chessplayers do!

Some of the games played were excellent, with fine play on both sides, and there will be a full sample, plus grading results, in the next Selective Search.

**Our Stand**

The days are invariably long and quite arduous - something in the order of a 12 hour continuous stint. But we must surely enjoy it, or we wouldn't do it??

One early highlight was the presence of the BBC TV cameras, interviewing here, filming there. It's amazing how much nicer one is to all and sundry, when you know there's a fair chance your unflagging courtesy may be there for millions to see on the 9 o'clock news. As it happened, there was fair coverage that evening on **BBC Breakfast**, and two or three of us were seen in the background during David Norwood's interview - all trying to look efficient. Fame at last.

We always have a dilemma at Congresses where we have computers playing, as to whether to have a similar model also on our stand. The argument in favour is that the computers playing do create a lot of interest, and some people may well wish to purchase an identical one if we have it displayed. The argument against is that potential opponents can (and do) practise on it, and this makes it more likely that someone will find an unusual opening variation against the computer, bane it to perfection, and offer it around to all and sundry!

So we didn't have a Lyon on the stand until part way through the second week, when we brought out the "Big Boy", the Munchen Lyon 68030, all £4,850 of him. We challenged all-comers to play it for £1 a game, £5 if they beat it. Before long, hordes of FM's, IM's and GM's were beating a path to our stand, and the content of our petty cash tin continued to swell until it began to look like the vaults at Fort Knox (no relation to Vic Knox or Dave Knox I understand). Later on in the week one or two very uncharitable players began to win the odd game, and our pile of ill-gotten gains reduced enough to stop us feeling too guilty! Rather than pen a long list of highly eminent scalps that the 68030 duffed up, let's just say that only two players came out ahead - Julian Hodgson 1-0, and Peter Wells 2-1.

At the end of the Congress, our team were all so exhausted we decided "never again". But three days later, we cannot wait for next years event (at Plymouth we understand). It seems the addiction is beyond the curable stage!
Now v Spracklen
WMicro Champs (r 1), 1991
1.d4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Ag2 e4 4.e4 Ae7 5.Ac3 d6 6.d3 Ag6 7.0-0
0-0 8.Ae3 Od4 9.a4 Ag4 10.a5 [10.h3? Afxf3+ 11.Ag3 Axh3] 10...
stuff, I'm afraid - 19...Ah3? 20.Ba5 Axg2 21.Bxg2 Dg4 22.h3
diag

32.h4 Oc6 33.c3 Bxd4 34.cxd4 Oc6 - The position clarifies, and
we see that the NOW programmer's claim that he was 3 Pawns up
until the Time Control function went wrong, is clearly not:
true - 35.Bd3 Be8 36.Ac1 Oc6 37.Bf4 Od5 38.g4 g5 39.hxg5 hxg5
40.Bh5 Ed8 - It is true that NOW has begun playing much too
fast now (!) and his position deteriorates slowly from here.
Still he was never 3 Pawns up, as we have seen, and a draw
would have really been the fair claim - 41.Ac4 Od8 42.Bd2 a5
43.Wb2 Be8 44.Wc2 f5 45.gxf5 Wxf5 46.Wg2 g4 47.Wb1 Be8 48.Wd3
Wg5 49.e5 Wf5+ 50.Bd2 Bf2+ 51.Bd3 Bf5+ 52.Be3 diag

52...Bxd4+! - The SPRACKLEN play has not been particularly
inspiring, considering that NOW is moving after only 2 or 3
secs. But this move is an interesting, if risky, attempt to
make something of the position – 53...dx4 – It may be that NOW
evaluated at close to +300 (3 Pawns) at this point in the
game. One or two other programs go close to this in their
early thinking, but eventually come back down to earth! –
53... Bc8+ 54.Be2 Bf2+ 55.Bd3 Bf5+ 56.Be4 Bd7+ 57.Be3 Bc3+ 58.
Be4 Bf3+ 59.Bxf3 Bxf3 60.Bf6+ Bg7 61.Bxd7 f2 62.e6 f1B+ 63.Be5
Bb5+ 64.Bd4 Bg6 65.Bc5 Bg8 66.e7 Bf7 67.Be3 Bf6 68.Bf4+ Bg6
69.Be4 Bg7 – Of course White has a certain draw here, apart
from its wretched time bug. The result is we are eventually
treated to a series of inefficient moves which allow an
otherwise insipid SPRACKLEN program an undeserved win – 70.
Be6+ [70.Bf4 looks better] 70...Bf7 71.Bd8+ Bg6 72.Ba6+ [72.
Bb7 looks the sure way to guarantee the draw] 72...Bf5 – And
the checks come to an end – 73.Bd4 a4 – At last... a positive
move from Black – 74.Bc4 Bf4 75.Bc5 Cg5 76.Bd3?! [76.Bd4
actually has the SPRACKLEN program under pressure! It is
amazing that NOW, at 1-2 secs per move, has got this far and
is still in the game. But Black’s play has never sparkled, as
if only able to see a draw] 76...Bh5 77.Be5?? [??Bc4 still
looks to be equal to me] 77...a3 78.Bc3? [78.Bd4 protecting
the Knight... a2 79.Ba6 results in a tricky Q v R+N finish
which White could still draw!] 78...a2 – Which wins in all
variations now – 79.Bb2 Bb5+ 80.Bxa2 Bd5+ – And White resigned
– 0-1

Spracklen v M Chess 486
WMicro Champs (r 2), 1991
1.d4 Bf6 2.c4 g6 3.Bf3 g7 4.Bc3 d5 5.Ag5 dx4 6.e4 e5 7.d5
to win a Pawn, but entering into dangerous territory – 12.0-0
Bxc8 Bg4 24.Bxb7 – SPRACKLEN has played this well. It has the
more active pieces and is beginning to win material – 24...0-0
25.Bxe7+ Bb8 26.h3 f5 27.Bb1 diag

27...Bxf2! 28.e5 [28.Bxf2 fxe4+ (28...Bd4+ could be better...
29.\(g3\) \(\text{Re}5+\) 30.\(\text{Qf}3\) \(\text{fxe}4+\) 31.\(\text{Qe}3\) \(\text{Qg}3+)\) 29.\(\text{Qg}1\) \(\text{Qd}4+)\) 28...\(\text{Be}4\) 29.\(\text{Cc}7\) \(\text{Wh}6\) 30.\(\text{e}6\) \(\text{Qe}3+\) 31.\(\text{Wh}2\) \(\text{Qf}6\) - I like the way \(\text{CHESS}\) tries to get its pieces into the pressure areas - 32.\(\text{Ab}3\) \(\text{Wh}6\) 33.\(\text{Ab}7\) \(\text{Wh}7\) 34.\(\text{Wh}1\) - As in Round 1, the \text{SPRACKLEN} program shows a propensity for meandering with its King. 34.\(\text{Ra}7\) would have been a more positive approach. Now \(\text{CHESS}\) can seek some initiative of its own - 34...\(\text{Qe}8\) 35.\(\text{Qf}4\) \(g5\) 36.\(\text{Qg}3\) \(\text{g}4\) - White's \(d\) and \(e\) Pawns still look as if they ought to win the game, don't they? - 37.\(\text{a}3\) \(\text{Qf}6\) 38.\(\text{Qb}3\) \(\text{gxh}3\) 39.\(\text{ghx}3\) \(f4\) 40.\(d6\) \(f3\) 41.\(\text{Qxf}3\) \(\text{Qd}5\) - An excellent move which threatens immediately to draw the game - 42.\(\text{Qe}2\)? [42.\(\text{Qxd}5\) allows mate in 2!; 42.\(\text{Qg}6+)\) \(\text{hxg}6\) (42...\(\text{Qxg}6\) 43.\(\text{Qxf}8+\) is mate in 5) 43.\(\text{Qxg}7\) \(\text{Qxf}3\) 44.\(\text{Qf}7\) \(\text{wins}\)] 42...\(\text{Qg}3\) - And the draw is gained by this as far as I can tell, though they played on for a few more moves - 43.\(\text{Qg}2\) \(\text{Qe}1+\) 44.\(\text{Qg}1\) \(\text{Qe}4+\) 45.\(\text{Qh}2\) \(\text{Qe}5+\) 46.\(\text{Qh}1\) \(\text{Qxe}7\) 47.\(\text{dx}e7\) \(\text{Qd}5+\) 48.\(\text{Qb}2\) \(\text{Qd}6+\) 49.\(\text{Qh}1\) \(\text{Qd}5+\) - And a draw was agreed - [49...\(\text{Qd}5+\) 50.\(\text{Qg}2\) \(\text{Qxg}2\) 51.\(\text{Qxg}2\) \(\text{Qe}8\) 52.\(\text{Ed}7\) \(\text{Qg}7\) 53.\(\text{Qf}3\) \(\text{Qf}6\) and both the doubled \(e/Pawns\) will fall, leaving a dead draw] \(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}\)

Nephtsto v The King

\text{WMicro Champs (r 2), 1991}

1.\(d4\) \(\text{Qf}6\) 2.\(c4\) \(e5\) 3.\(dxe5\) \(\text{Qe}4+\) 4.\(d3\) \(\text{Qb}4+\) 5.\(\text{Ad}2\) \(\text{Qxd}2\) 6.\(\text{Qbd}2\) \(\text{Qc}6\) 7.\(a3\) \(\text{Ax}d2+\) 8.\(\text{Qxd}2\) \(\text{Qe}7\) 9.\(\text{Qxf}4\) 0-0 10.0-0-0?! - This doesn't look too sound! 10.\(\text{Kd}1\) would have been better, still aiming to find safety on the K\(/\)side for the King - 10...\(\text{Qe}8\) 11.\(\text{Qd}5\) \(b6\) 12.\(e4\) \(\text{Ab}7\) 13.\(\text{Qf}5\) \(\text{Qad}8\) 14.\(\text{Qg}5\) \(g6\) 15.\(\text{Qf}4\) \(\text{Qa}5\) 16.\(\text{Ed}1\) \(b6\) 17.\(\text{Qf}3\) \(\text{Qe}6\) 18.\(\text{Qxh}6\) - Missing the point and making an unfavourable exchange of Pawns - [18.\(\text{Ad}3\) threatening \(Qxh6\)... \(g5\) 19.\(\text{Qg}3\) with still a very small advantage, perhaps. White's problems all stem from castling \(Q/\)side (19.\(\text{Qe}3??\) \(\text{Qxc}4\))] 18...\(\text{Qxe}4\) - With the simple threat of 19...\(\text{Nxb}3+)\! - 19.\(\text{Qd}4\) \(\text{Qxe}5\) 20.\(f3\)

- Black is going to win a Pawn in the middle of (to me!) horrendous complications. If you're like me, a diagram will help you and give you a place to come back to so you can go over it again - 20...\(d5\)! 21.\(\text{Qe}3\) [21.\(\text{fxe}4\)!?? \(\text{Qc}4\) (21...\(\text{dx}e4\) is also possible) 22.\(\text{Qe}3\) \(\text{Qxd}4\) 23.\(\text{Qxd}4\) \(\text{Qb}3+)\] seems to come out slightly better for \text{MEPHISTO} than the move played] 21...\(\text{c5}\) 22.\(\text{cx}d5\) \(\text{Qxd}5\) 23.\(\text{fxe}4\) \(\text{Qxe}4\) 24.\(\text{Qf}3\) \(\text{Qxd}4\) 25.\(\text{Qxd}5\) \(\text{Qxd}5\) 26.\(\text{Qa}6\)! -
So the Pawn has been lost by White; and this is hardly the best continuation now (Be2 or even Rxd5 were preferable). Black has gained an imposing position to go with his extra Pawn - 26...Bb3+ 27.Qe2 Qd4+ 28.Qb1 b5 29.Ahe1 Bd6 30.Ab7 f5 31.g3 Bd7 32.Ag2 c4 33.Ed2 Qg7 34.Ed1 Ed6 35.h4 Qf6 36.Ah1? - A poor square for a Bishop, and White could ill afford to throw any tempi away - 36...a5 37.Ag2 b4 38.axb4 axb4 39.Bcl?! - Putting itself into an obvious fork - on the basis of having a saving check. But 39.Rf2 would have avoided what now transpires - 39...Bb3 40.Axd6+ Bxd6 41.Af1? - Well I don't know what this was for! My LYON stays on 41.Rgl through 15 mins and, whilst the game is almost surely still lost, the chances are slightly better than those obtained after Bf1 - 41.Ag1 Bd2 42.Qa2 Qd4 43.Qal c3 most probably still wins for THE KING; but MEPHISTO's chances are surely better than with the move as played?!) 41...Axc1 42.Axc1 Ed4 - The Computers evaluate Black as between +400 and +500 ahead now, but they play on for a little longer - 43.Ac2 c3 44.bxc3 bxc3 45.h5 Bd2 46.Ac3 gxb5 47.Axh5 Qg5 48.Ac3 f2 49.Ad5 Qg4 50.Ac6 Qxg3 51. $d1 - But White resigned after playing this - 0-1

M Chess v Mephisto
WMicro Champs (r 3), 1991

23...a5?! [23...Ag7? attempting to drive off some of White's attacking force, would be a mistake... 24.Axg7 Qxg7 25.Axd5!; 23...Ag5 is however a satisfactory continuation, as recommended by Malcolm Pein in his weekly chess Article for the European... 24.Axg5 Qxg5 25.Axd5 exd5 and Black comes out at least equal (25...Axd5 is also fine; 25...Qxd5?? is not! 26.Qf6+ wins)] 24.Axf6+ Qxf6? - A suicidal way to exchange after which M CHESS is able to advance the d/Pawn dangerously
- [24...\textit{\textbf{Q}xf6} is the only move here, without which Black is probably lost] 25.\textit{\textbf{Q}e5! \textbf{Q}e8} 26.d5! - Excellent timing! - 26...\textit{\textbf{Q}b4} 27.\textit{\textbf{Q}e3 \textbf{A}a6} [27...\textit{\textbf{Q}}xd5?? is a disaster] 28.\textit{\textbf{Q}xe8+ \textbf{A}xe8} 29.\textit{\textbf{A}xe8+ \textbf{Q}e8} 30.\textit{\textbf{A}xd5? 28.\textbf{A}xd5! wins, for the same reason] 28.\textit{\textbf{A}xe6 f6} - It must have hurt \textit{MEPHI}STO to have to play this and leave that dreadful e/Pawn threatening everything from discovered check to promotion! - 29.e7+ \textit{\textbf{A}c4} 30.\textit{\textbf{A}xc4+ \textbf{Q}xc4} 31.\textit{\textbf{Q}xb5 \textbf{Q}d5} 32.\textit{\textbf{A}h3 \textbf{Q}f7} 33.\textit{\textbf{Q}b4 axb4} 34.\textit{\textbf{Q}xb4 \textbf{B}c7} 35.\textit{\textbf{A}d2 \textbf{Wa2}} 36.\textit{\textbf{Q}h4 \textbf{h}5} 37.\textit{\textbf{A}d4 \textbf{Ac}2} [37...\textit{\textbf{Q}xe7?? is yet another trap avoided by \textit{MEPHI}STO!] 38.\textit{\textbf{A}xe7+ \textbf{Q}xe7} 39.\textit{\textbf{A}b4+ \textbf{Q}f7} 40.\textit{\textbf{Q}d7+ \textbf{Q}xe4} 41.\textit{\textbf{Q}e3 \textbf{b}1+} 42.\textit{\textbf{Q}a1 \textbf{b}7} 41.\textit{\textbf{A}a5} - Oh no! Not another one! - 41...\textit{\textbf{B}c7} 42.\textit{\textbf{A}d8 \textbf{A}xe7} 43.a6! \textit{\textbf{A}xe3} 44.\textit{\textbf{Q}xb7 \textbf{A}xe1+} 45.\textit{\textbf{Q}h2 \textbf{B}b1} 46.b8\textit{\textbf{Q}} \textit{\textbf{B}xb8} 47.\textit{\textbf{A}xb8 \textbf{Q}g7} 48.\textit{\textbf{A}c7+} - And Black resigned. Incredible! Seven consecutive World Championship victories for Richard Lang are as good as ended, with his program losing 2 of its first 3 games! - 1-0

\textbf{Gideon (CM) v M Chess}

\textbf{WMicro Champs (r 4), 1991}

1.d4 \textit{\textbf{Q}f6} 2.c4 \textit{\textbf{g}6} 3.\textit{\textbf{A}c3} d5 4.\textit{\textbf{c}xd5 \textbf{Q}xd5} 5.e4 \textit{\textbf{A}xc3} 6.\textit{\textbf{B}xc3 \textbf{Q}g7} 7.\textit{\textbf{A}c4} c5 8.\textit{\textbf{A}e2} 0-0 9.0-0 \textit{\textbf{B}c6} 10.\textit{\textbf{A}e3} \textit{\textbf{B}c7} 11.\textit{\textbf{B}c1} \textit{\textbf{A}d8} 12.\textit{\textbf{B}f4} \textit{\textbf{A}d7} 13.d5 \textit{\textbf{Q}e5}? [13...\textit{\textbf{A}a5} was best. White gets tremendous central pressure via the exchange. We will wait to see if the latest \textit{CHESS} (v/1.50) - with an improved Book - includes this correction] 14.\textit{\textbf{A}xe5 \textbf{A}xe5} 15.f4 \textit{\textbf{A}g7} 16.\textit{\textbf{B}b1} - This is not to attack the b/Pawn so much as to stop Black playing b5, which he would certainly like to do here - 16...\textit{\textbf{B}c7} 17.f5 gxf5?! 18.\textit{\textbf{Q}xf5} a6 19.a4 \textit{\textbf{Q}e5}?! - Pointless - [19...\textit{\textbf{Q}e5 is a better plan, and Black stands reasonably well}] 20.g3 \textit{\textbf{Q}f6} 21.\textit{\textbf{A}f4} \textit{\textbf{A}g5} 22.\textit{\textbf{A}g4} - One expects a pin like this to be critical, but nothing comes of it! - 22...\textit{\textbf{A}h6} 23.\textit{\textbf{B}c2} [23.\textit{\textbf{A}h4 looks obvious, but... \textit{\textbf{Q}xf5! and Black is still okay!}] 23...\textit{\textbf{Q}e5} 24.\textit{\textbf{B}f1} diag

\textbf{6}

24...\textit{\textbf{Q}f8} 25.\textit{\textbf{Q}e4 \textbf{Q}f6?} - A very surprising decision; the exchange of Queens surely wouldn't have harmed Black in the way this will - [25...\textit{\textbf{Q}xe4} 26.\textit{\textbf{A}xe4} looks Black's best choice by far] 26.h4 \textit{\textbf{A}d2} 27.\textit{\textbf{A}g6} \textit{\textbf{Q}h8} 28.d6! - Releasing the c4/Bishop into the attack - 28...\textit{\textbf{Q}}xd6 29.\textit{\textbf{A}xf7 \textbf{Q}xf7} 30.\textit{\textbf{Q}d5+ \textbf{Q}f8} 31.\textit{\textbf{A}xd2 \textbf{Q}e8} 32.\textit{\textbf{A}e1 \textbf{Q}f7} 33.\textit{\textbf{A}d5+ \textbf{Q}f8} 34.\textit{\textbf{B}f4} - And Black resigned. A
Gideon (CM) v Spracklen
WMicro Champs (r 5), 1991
1.d4 Qf6 2.c4 g6 3.Qc3 Qg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Qf3 c5 6.d5 d6 7.Aa3 Qa6 - The Spracklen program appeared to show a preference for Knights over Bishops in this Tournament (a Saitke philosophy?); but it's choice of position here is not going to get this one involved too quickly! - 8.0-0 Qg4 9.Ae2 Qb6 - A move described in Schach & Spiele as -ein Stellungstyp!-, which I like the sound of! - whatever it means. I think Black should be getting his Knight out of the way to c7, to allow the advance of his a and b/Pawns - 10.Bb1 Ad7?! - Another surprising choice, as it had only just gone to g4 - 11.Ae3 Qg4 12.Ag5 Qc7? - Black had foreseen the GIDEON reply to this, but misread the outcome - 13.Axe7 Axf8 14.Ah4 Qc8 [14...Axc3 was what SPRACKLEN had planned at move 12, thinking that... 25. Bxc3 Axe4 was okay for him. But... 16.Qg5 Ae3 17.fxe3 Bxe4 18. Bxf7 is clearly better for White, though beyond the computer's range of vision when Qc7 was played] 15.Ag3 Axc3 16.Bxc3 Qf6 17.Bd2 Qc7 diag

- White is a Pawn up, and well in control -18.e5?! - What is this? An optimistic choice, that's for sure. Simple progress by Qc2, f4 and perhaps Rb1 to prepare e5, would leave White with a very clear advantage. Nevertheless, there is a point to 18.e5, as we see - 18... dxe5 19.Ah4 Qg7 20.Qxf6+ Qxf6 21.d6 - One imagines it was the prospect of this Pawn push (if 21... Qxd6?? 22.Ne4+) which enticed GIDEON into playing so positively with 18.e5 - 21...Qc6 22.Qf3 e4 23.Qxe4+! [23.Axe4 Axe4 24.Qf3+ Qf5 25.Qxe4+ Qxe4 26.Axb7 Qxf3 27.gxf3 Ed8 28. Axa7 Axd6 and Black has good prospects of a draw] 23...Qxe4 24.Axe4 Qxe4 25.Qe1 Qxc4? - Allowing White a simple winning tactic - a pity, as SPRACKLEN had played quite competitively in this one, against the eventual World joint no.1! - [25... Qc6 was much better, covering f3, attacking d5, maintaining protection for b7!] 26.Qf3+ Qg7 27.Axb7 Aa6 28.Qe7 Ad5 29.Qg3 Axa2 30.Qe5+ Qh6 31.Qf6 Qb8 - It's been there on a6 since our
note at move 7! - 32...$e3 - Threatening Rh3 mate, of course - 32...Axg2 33.$xg2 $d5+ 34.$xg1 $g5+ 35.$xg5+ $xg5 36.$e8 - Easy to spot, but deadly - 36...h5 37.d7 $xd7 38.$xa8 $f6 - Black's operators show an over-abundance of optimism in their program! The correct move now was resign! - 39.$a1 $e5 40.$axa7 $f3+ 41.$h1 $e5 42.$a5 $f5 43.$a2 $f4 44.$c8 $d3 45.$d2 $e5 46.$xe5 - The protracted maneuvering has been to stop Black playing Nd3 here, forking Rook and c3/Pawn - 46...$g4 47.$g2 h4 48.$c6 h3+ 49.$xb3 $f3 50.$xg6 $xf2+ 51.$xf2+ - And Black's evaluation must have gone into 4 figures at this point, as its operators actually gave up - 1-0

**Mephisto v Gideon (CM)**

**WMicro Champs (r 7), 1991**

1.e4 c6 - Using Lang's favourite opening as Black against him! I still insist it doesn't suit computers well, whoever they are! - 2.d4 d5 3.$c3 dxe4 4.$xe4 $e5 5.$g3 $g6 6.$c4 $e6 7.$e2 $f6 8.$f4 $d6 9.$b3 $c7 10.$f3 $bd7 11.0-0 a5 12.c3 c5?! [12...0-0 is safer... 13.$xe6 fxe6 14.$xe6 may "win" Rook + 2 Pawns for Bishop and Knight, but gives White no real advantage in practical terms] 13.$xe6 - In fact, if it was best after 12...0-0, it probably is now as well! Also it looks spectacular - 13...fxe6 14.$xe6 $b6 15.$xg7+ $f7 16.$xf5 $xd4 17.$xd4 $xg3 18.$h6+ $g7 19.$xg3 $e8 20.$d1 $h8 21.$b3 diag

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- MEPHISTO's first move towards releasing the c1/Bishop onto the long a1-h8 diagonal, where it will be very dangerous working alongside the h6/N - 21...$eac8 [21...$d5! blockading the passed Pawn probably gives Black the slight advantage. Larry Kaufman comments here that White's extra Pawns, being immobile, are worth less that GIDEON's effective Knights; 21...$xd4 is another spectacular-looking move (not now 22.$xd4 Rel mate); but... 22.$e3 $e5 23.$h4 $h5 24.$xh5 $xh5 25.$g4 $g6 26.$d4 and Black still has problems] 22.d5! - Well timed play! White's Bishop will be able to enter the game most effectively now - 22...$e2 [22...$c2 looks a better try... 23.$e3 $b5 24. $d4 $b4 threatening 25...$xa2 26.$xa2 $ xd4 and back-rank mates at d1 or e1] 23.$e3 $b5 24.$d4 - The Bishop is clearly dangerous on this diagonal; watch how effective and long-
lasting the pin is on the f6/Knight - 24...Bce8 25.Ac3 0b6 26.
d6 0d8 27.Qg5 b6 28.f4! Ef8 29.f5 Ac8 30.Ac1 Ah5 [30...Rxel+
Black resigned. A game in which MEPHISTO looked like the World
Champion it (usually) is - 1-0

Gideon (C) v Mephisto
Whicro Champs (p/off 2), 1991
1.e4 c6 - I suppose I might have expected this! - 2.d4 d5 3.
c3 Ac6 4.De4 Af5 5.Qg3 Ac6 6.0e2 e6 7.De4 Ad6 8.c3 0e7 9.
h4 Af5 10.Ac4 0-0 11.Qf3 Wa5 12.Bxf5 exf5 13.Ad2 Ac8 14.0-0-0
Le7 15.h5 0d6 16.Ab3 c5 17.dxc5 Wxc5 18.b6 g6 diag

- We'll have a diagram here, as we come to a moment at which
there was nearly an outright World Champion instead of a
shared Title - 19.Ac3? [19.Axg5! from GIDEON would have
surely saved all the after-Match discussions on who really
won, and which really is the stronger (remembering GIDEON's
speed advantage in the Tournament)... fxe6 20.Axe6+ 0h8 21.
Ac3!! threatening the deadly Bd4+!! What can MEPHISTO do about
that?! If... 21...Ag5 pinning the Bishop... 22.0b1 Ac3 (22...
Axe6 23.Qf8+ mate!) 23.Qf6+ mate! Strangely MEPHISTO was
expecting this crushing line in its display; and GIDEON (Chess
Machine) simply missed it (the horizon effect created by the
apparent Bg5 refutation?!). Perhaps justice was done in the
end?] 19...Ec6 20.0h3 Ac4 21.g4 Ac8 22.Ac4 Wc4 23.0b1 0c6
24.Qf3 Be5 25.Qg2 0b5 26.0d4 Ob4 27.b3 0a3+ 28.0c1 0g5 29.0e4
0d6 - MEPHISTO is now ready to do damage to White's Pawn
structure in the course of the next few moves - 30.0b2 Qxf4
31.Wxf4 Ac4+ 32.bxc4 Wxf4 33.0b3 Ac7 34.Wf6 Ac8 35.Ed4 e5 36.
0e4 Ac6 diag

(diagram 10)

37.Axe5 [37.Ah4? is one alternative, aiming to avoid exchanges
and a worsening of the Pawns... f5! 38.gxf5 gxf5 39.0h6 0h6
and Black is winning in this variation; 37.g5! and Lyon would
probably have continued... Ab6+ 38.0c2 Ab6 39.0b3 0d6 40.a4
and in this one Black is only slightly ahead] 37...Axe5 38.
\( \text{Exe5} \text{Exc4} 39.\text{Bh3 Exg4} - \text{White has lost a Pawn, and now has even worse Pawn weaknesses} - 40.\text{Be7} \text{Bb8} 41.\text{Af3} f5 42.\text{Afe3} \text{Ab4} 43.\text{Be8} + ?! \text{Exe8} 44.\text{Exe8+ Ff7} 45.\text{Ab8} g5 46.\text{Exb7+ Dg6} 47.\text{Exa7} \text{Af4} 48.\text{Aa6+ Bh5} 49.\text{Be6 Exf2} 50.\text{c4} g4 51.\text{c5 Df3+} 52.\text{Db2} g3 53.\text{Dd1} [53.\text{c6} g2 54.\text{c7} \text{g1D} 55.\text{c8D Dg2+} 56.\text{Dc2 Df2 and wins}] 53...\text{Ed3} 54.\text{Ah1+ Dg5} 55.\text{Bg1 f4} 56.\text{c6 Dd8} 57.\text{Db3 Dc8} - \text{And White resigned here} - 0-1

\text{Gideon (CM) v Mephisto}
\text{WMicro Champs (p/off 3), 1991}
1.\text{c4} - \text{MEPHISTO's victory on the Black side of the Caro Kann has persuaded the GIDEON team to change openings for Game 3} - 1...\text{c6} 2.\text{d4} \text{d5} 3.\text{Af3 Df6} 4.\text{Cc3 Dxc4} 5.a4 \text{Ag4} [5...\text{Af5 is well-known in the Czech system}] 6.\text{Be5} \text{Ab5} 7.\text{f3 Dfd7} 8.\text{Dxc4 e5} 9.\text{Be4 Ab4+} 10.\text{Ad2 Dh4+} 11.g3 \text{De7} 12.\text{Dxe5 0-0} 13.\text{Cc1 a5} 14.\text{Dxb4 axb4} 15.\text{Dd6 Ae8} 16.\text{Dd1} - \text{GIDEON has been in its Opening Book all the way to here! Definitely a case of careful preparation} - 16...\text{Dxd6} 17.\text{Dexd6 Ae7 diag

- And this game was agreed Drawn here, as part of the package \(-\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}\)
Mephisto v Gideon (CM)

WHICHE Champs (p/off 4), 1991

1.d4 b6 2.Øf3 Øc6 - Of course this throws Mephisto out of Book, though it is not clever positionally - 3.d5 Øa5 4.Øc3 e6 5.dxe6? - Black's programmers must have found that Lyon made this positional error in their private testing! Thus the reason for the strange Opening Book choice of 2...Nc6 - to provoke the mistake! - [5.e4 was better, maintaining the d5 Pawn and the advantage of the extra space] 5...fxe6 6.e4 Ab7 7.Ag5?! - Not a good use of time. Black will gain development for his Knight, and this Bishop will just drop off the board - 7...Ge7 8.Axe7 Bxe7 9.Ab5 a6 10.Ae2 0-0 11.0-0 Ag6 12.Ød4 d6 13.Bad1 Qf4 diag

14.b4 - Stop here! Can you see the refutation of this - almost surely missed by the Lang program - it's very sweet! - 14...c5! 15.bxc5 Bc8! 16.Ad2 [16.Øxd6 Qxd6 17.Øxd6 Bxc5 and White has problems; 16.cxd6 Bxc3 17.Øxc3 Bxe2+ and wins; 16.cxb6 is the same... Bxc3 17.Øxc3 Bxe2+ winning] 16...Bxc5 17.Bd1 Qc7 - And Mephisto resigned this one, so ending with a 2-2 draw in the Play-off. Here, from... [17...Qc7 and White loses another Pawn after... 18.c3 e5 19.Øe3 Qc4 20.Axc4+ Bxc4 and it's 'bye 'bye to the e/Pawn] 0-1

The LATE, LATE NEWS!

TRAVELMASTER portable is now out and performing in accordance with the claims made for it! In an official Grading Test in the U.S it rated at 2070 from 48 games, and our own initial games show it at around 2000/175 BCF. It's still small sample as yet, but an optimistic start. Our latest available grading calculation will be shown in the Rating List on the back page. Full REPORT and games in the next 5/5.

Mephisto MILANO is the latest Ed Schroeder version ('beyond the POLGAR') and makes this program available at a lower price bracket. With a big opening book and Polgar's extensive training and other features, but including some of the search extension work for King attacks as used in the Chess Machine! The unique feature is a new 'LAPTOP Design' (which I haven't seen yet). It's press sensory and £269.
GIDEON - The CHESS MACHINE

My decision to move from the ATARI ST to an EPSON LAPTOP PC seemed to have been greatly rewarded when I learned that The CHESS MACHINE (GIDEON, joint World Micro Champion) was coming out in a RISC version for PC's ONLY! My order was placed very quickly, even before exact details confirming that the RISC card (which you insert inside your PC... but a fairly simple operation!) would run at 16MHz with 512K RAM (there is a slightly cheaper 128K RAM version). This means, in chess terms, a version running at close to 50% of the speed used in the unit at the VANCOUVER Championships. So, yes, I was quite excited!

The GOOD NEWS... and the BAD NEWS!

The CHESS MACHINE is by Ed Schroeder, the ACADEMY/MM5/POLGAR programmer. Indeed this version has evolved from those, but with the addition of a singular extension technique 'similar to the methods used by the big main-frame machines and by Richard Lang to obtain the big tactical speed improvement in his LYTOM. Reference to my PROCESSOR SPEED Chart will quickly show POLGAR (6502) 5MHz x 1 = 5CMHz. CHESS MACHINE (RISC) 16MHz x 2 = 32CMHz. Thus a speed-up over the POLGAR of just over SIX TIMES plus further benefits from the 512K Hash Tables! The calculations caused me to anticipate a working chess strength somewhere around the LYTOM 69020/20, but below the LYTOM 68030 despite the Vancouver result!

So the GOOD NEWS is that, after 4 weeks of testing, I believe the estimate is correct! - the program is VERY strong! The BAD NEWS (at least for me) is that I have been absolutely plagued with constant interruptions to games as my otherwise 100% reliable LAPTOP regularly LOCKS-UP. This, of course, means a complete RESET of the PC itself, followed by restoring The Chess Machine into memory, and then setting up the game and clocks to the latest position. Not a lot of fun, especially when it sometimes occurs 2 to 3 times in the same game!

Thus my personal confirmation of the program's definite strength is based on a much smaller games sample than it ought to have been; and life over the past few weeks has been rather less peaceful and enjoyable than without the blighter! You can possibly guess what comes next!? The suppliers of The Chess Machine believe it is a fault in my PC (they admit they have had the EXACT problem themselves - but claim it is ONLY with my particular PC model!)... and the suppliers of my Epson PC, of course, insist it is a fault in the RISC card! My guarantees with both firms seem to get me nowhere, but I remain £500 worse off (and play less chess than usual!).

It should be said that reports from Sweden and the States indicate that, after over-heating problems with some early units, they are now getting on okay with their versions. Hopefully TASC (the Dutch suppliers) can soon solve my particular anxieties - I know they are trying their best. The EPSON is fine with everything else I use and, I think, the fault must lie with the RISC card.
Readers will understand that it is VERY hard at the moment to decide whether to recommend the CHESS MACHINE to any prospective purchasers out there. The folk at Countrywide would LOVE to sell you one (business is business, after all) - but this employee would like to see the suppliers solve his problem so that he could recommend it with hand-on-heart and full confidence! Should everything work out okay, I will print it in LARGE BOLD LETTERS in S/S so that no-one is left in any doubts that I finally can 100% recommend it!

As readers know, I hardly ever come down against anything (I may ignore a new machine sometimes if I am finding it hard to be generous!). And I don't at all want to be "against" the CHESS MACHINE - it makes it SO hard to sell them, and it clearly IS a terrific chess player. That's its PROBLEM! - it has been so much in the news that you'd wonder if I'd lost my marbles if I'd completely ignored it in this S/S. Yet I can't write in glowing terms about something you might then want to buy off me, when I have had endless difficulties getting my own to work reliably. However, let us complete the Article on a brighter note!

Here are my own and the Swedish results for version 2 (the Vancouver unit with singular extensions), as at 16th Sept 1991. They really are good!

- Novag SUPER EXPERT C/6 21½-2½
- Fidelity MACH 3C 5-1
- Mephisto POLGAR 22-3
- Mephisto POLGAR 22-3
- Mephisto ACADEMY 6-2
- Mephisto ACADEMY 6-2
- CXG SPHINX/4 5½-½

Of course, you want to see some games! No sooner said than done; 3 "shorties":-

**Novag SUPER EXPERT C/6 - The CHESS MACHINE**


**Mephisto ACADEMY 6-2 - The CHESS MACHINE**


**The CHESS MACHINE - Fidelity MACH 3**

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc3 3.e4 h5 4.b5 cxb5 5.Bxb5+ c6 6.Bc4 bxa2 Nd7 0-0 Nb6?!
Endgame Corner - Solutions

Problem 1.
1.e4 Qxe4 2.Qh3+ Qh4 3.g4+ Kh6 4.Qg2! - and this FORCES mate in 6!

Problem 2

1.Bd3+ Kb7 2.Bxc2 Rg6!! - I found this idea myself (honestly), and was delighted to see Lyon confirming this as winning for Black - which of course spoils the problem and White's aim of achieving a draw!

Problem 3

1.Qc8+ Kd6 2.Qd8+ - Which also wins! - 2...Qd7 [2...Kc5 3.Qb6+ Kc4 4.Qb4+ Kd3 5.Qb1+ also wins] 3.Ne4+ Kc6 4.Qb6+ Kd5 5.Nf6+ - winning the Queen again.

Problem 4

1.Kg6 a5 2.Kxh6 a4 3.Kg6 a3 4.h6 a2 5.h7 aQ 6.h8Q+ Qxh8 - Did you get this far? Hands up if you thought White was now struggling! But Black's Queen is quite useless, and White gets the draw as follows - 7.f6 b5 8.axb5 c4 9.b6 c3 10.b7 Qxf6+ - Just in time, or Black actually loses - 11.Kxf6 - And it's stalemate. Lyon found this line in 3½ mins!

Problem 5

1.b8N+ Kxb8 2.axb8N+ Kd6 3.c8N+ Ke6 4.d8N+ Bxh8 5.exd8N+ Kf5 6.g8N+ Rxg8 7.hxg8N+ Kg6 8.f8N+ - And it's mate in 8! Have you ever seen anything like it?... not unless you've previously seen this one itself I would think. Lyon sorted it out in 1min 40secs.

Adverts

Please note: Adverts are for SUBSCRIBERS only and cost £3 for up to 3 lines. Money with written-out advert please. Extra lines £1 each.

Advert: Chessmaster 2100 USER GROUP. IBM and compatible computers (3½” disk only). Send SAE plus DISK to BRYAN WHITBY, 16 Manse Field Road, Kingsley, Warrington, Cheshire WA6 8BZ.

Advert: Mephisto MUNCHEN LYON 68020. In mint condition with instructions and original box. £900. Tel: LARRY MILLINGTON on 0925 574797 (work) or 061 724 9715.

Advert: Novag SUPER FORTE B/6. £150. Mephisto SUPERMONDIAL I. £75. Excellent condition, boxed. Tel: ROSS WITHEY on 0705 471490 (evenings) or write him at 49 Maylands Road, Bedhampton, Hants PO9 3NR.

Advert: Fidelity DESIGNER 2100 - as new and with brand new chess set. £85 incl. delivery by reg. post. Phone ALASTAIR SCOTT on 071 637 9111 ext 2506 (9-5.30pm).